



GNOME Foundation

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

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Coordination: Nuritzi Sanchez,
Michael Hall

Proofreading: Rosanna Yuen,
Avi Zajac,
Evan Welsh,
Britt Yazel,
Caroline Henriksen,
Oliver Propst

Photos: Bei Bei Liu,
Matthias Clasen,
Nuritzi Sanchez,
Bastian Ilso,
Julita Inca,
Mark Simpson,
Jonathan Kang,
Federico Mena Quintero,
Zeeshan Ali,
Marco Trevisan,
Siska Restu Anggraeny,
Muhammet Kara

Photo Hunting: Britt Yazel,
Bastian Ilso

Design & Prepress: Jeff Fortin,
Bastian Ilso

Letter from the GNOME Foundation



This year we celebrated our 20 year milestone, and with it showed the world that GNOME is as strong and relevant in the technological space as ever. It was also my first year as the Executive Director for the GNOME Foundation, and I feel privileged to be able to write this introduction for what is a highly influential project. Two things have stood out to me in particular this first year.

Firstly, I received a huge warm welcome from everyone involved in the project. I've been very impressed by the passion of the community, its commitment to Free Software, and the Project's desire to achieve a high level of technical quality.

Secondly is the focus on design. GNOME believes that design is a scientific approach and not simply the visual appeal. This is paramount to producing something that we hope to be ubiquitous — and not just for the standard GNU/Linux user, but for everyone, whatever their level of expertise or requirement to have an accessible desktop environment.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year we ran six hackfests, made two releases, celebrated with thirty release parties on four continents, and hosted our annual GUADEC conference in Manchester, UK. None of these things would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

Whether you have been with GNOME since the beginning, been here a while, or just recently joined us, we are glad you are here and look forward on continuing this wonderful journey with you in the years and decades to come!

Happy hacking,

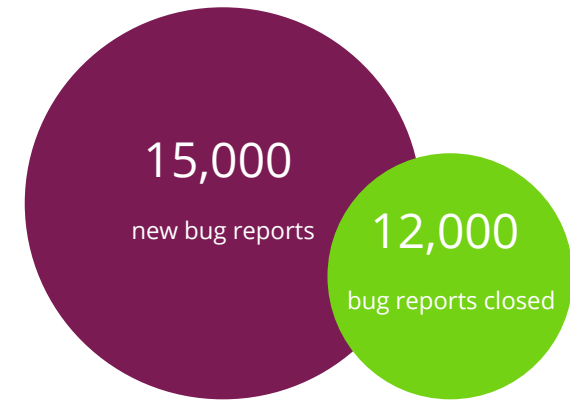
Neil McGovern

Executive Director, GNOME Foundation

GNOME Never Stops

The GNOME Foundation is the public charity that furthers the goals of the GNOME Project, helping it to create GNOME, a collection of free/libre and open source software that forms a cohesive free software computing platform for the general public that is designed to be elegant, efficient, and easy to use.

A new version of GNOME is released every six months, which requires a great amount of effort and coordination from contributors all around the world. This page serves to illustrate this process, and the next page provides details on the two releases made during the 2017 fiscal year.



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Fiscal Year 2016 begins >

OCT

NOV

DEC

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FOSDEM



AB17

Linux Playa

GTK+ Hackfest 2017
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Rust 2017
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GUATEC + AGM
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Fractional Scaling 2017
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JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUG

SEP

GNOME 3.24 released



GStreamer Spring Hackfest 2017
(page 7)

GNOME Foundation's new
Board of Directors is elected

GNOME's 20th Birthday

GNOME 3.26 released



Releases

The GNOME project released two major versions during the 2017 financial year; 3.24 was released in March and 3.26 was released in September. Both releases featured improvements to both the user and developer experience.

This year, GNOME saw a concerted effort to improve support for modern hardware. Initial support for HiDPI scaling was added to Settings, allowing the size of what's shown on the screen to be adjusted to match the density (often expressed as PPI or DPI) of your display, resulting in the right amount of content being displayed, as well as making it easy to read. GNOME also added support for machines that have two graphics cards. If you have this hardware, you can now select which GPU to use when launching an application. Finally, GNOME introduced a new color-shifting feature called Night Light. This feature changes the color of your displays according to the time of day. By making the screen color warmer in the evening, it can help to prevent sleeplessness and eye strain.

Recipes, an application containing recipes contributed by members of the GNOME community, was introduced. It offers an extensive set of features for adding and editing recipes, creating shopping lists, adjusting quantities and even has a hands-free cooking mode. For developers, it showcases the new meson build system and is distributed strictly as a Flatpak.

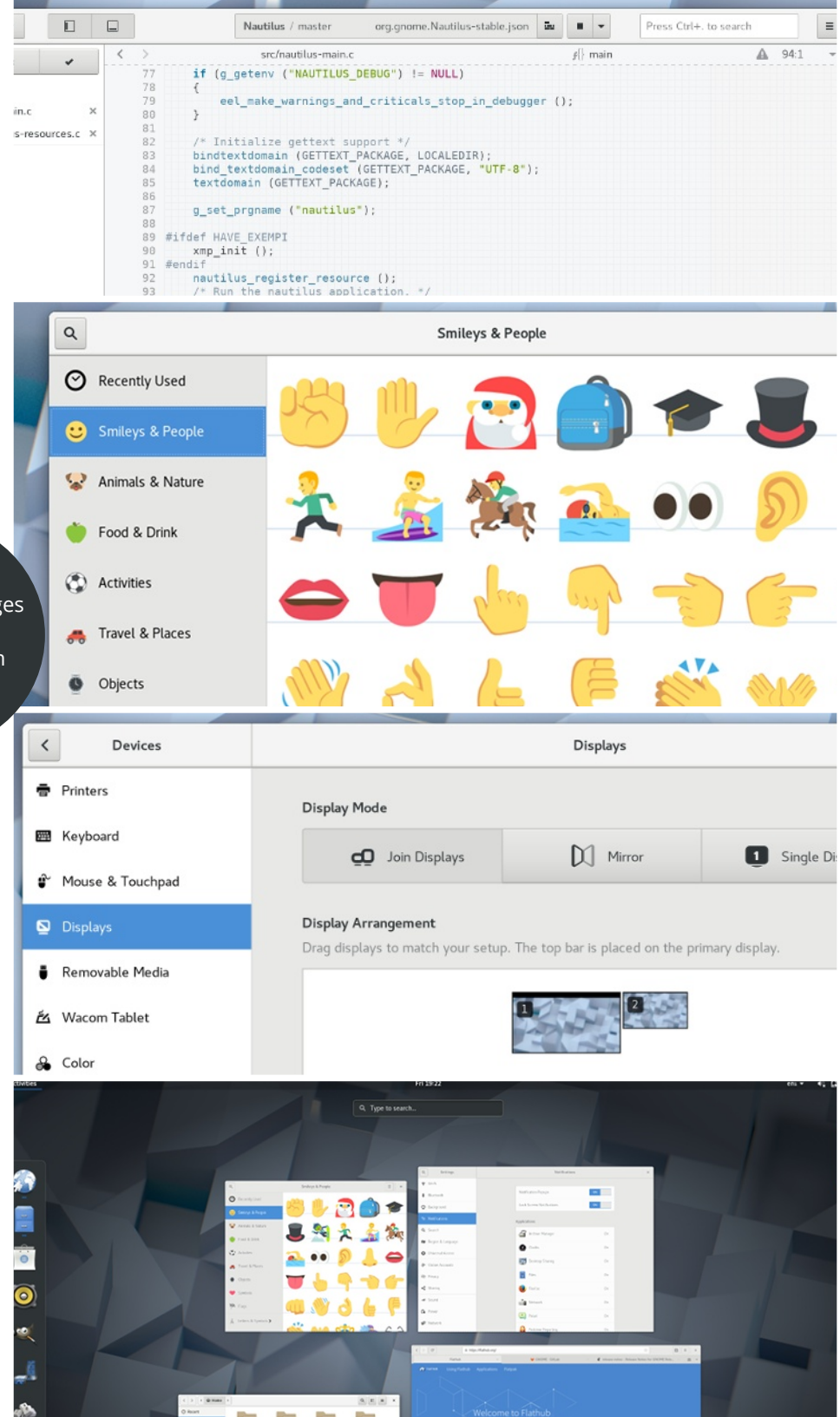
Builder, the GNOME IDE, introduced a number of new features. It gained support for multiple build systems (including meson, Rust and Flatpak) by way of a new build pipeline architecture, enabling future build systems to integrate into Builder. Builder also added profiling support using Valgrind, introduced an initial preview of visual debugging, and added contextual documentation popovers.

Flatpak saw increased traction in 2017 as well. GNOME began hosting desktop applications on Flathub, a centralized platform for Flatpak repository hosting.

More details about GNOME 3.24 and 3.26 can be read in their release notes.

24,105 changes
incorporated in
GNOME 3.26

753
contributors
in the 3.26 cycle



Hackfests

GStreamer Autumn 2016

Berlin, Germany - October 8th to 9th, 2016

The GStreamer hackfest was a two day event on the week-end before the GStreamer Conference. It was an informal gathering of people interested in working on GStreamer where developers worked on GStreamer and related projects.

Core Apps 2016

Berlin, Germany - November 25th to 27th, 2016

At the Core Apps hackfest, developers worked to raise the standard of the overall core experience in GNOME, with a focus on core apps like Documents, Files, Music, Photos, and Videos, etc. They identified missing features and sore points that needed to be addressed and the interaction between apps and the desktop. This work was beneficial to both the GNOME apps as well as 3rd party apps, where missing features were added to serve as an example of what an app could do on GNOME.

GTK+ 2017

London, UK - March 20th to 24th, 2017

The GTK+ 2017 hackfest was a two day event in London where a wide variety of people came together to work on the upcoming GTK+ 4 and the requirements for making that transition. It spontaneously developed a second focus on improving application delivery through Flatpak with improvements to Portals, d-bus, AppStream, and Flathub.

Rust 2017

Mexico City, Mexico - March 29th to 31st, 2017

In this hackfest, GNOME developers worked to improve the interoperability between Rust and GNOME, improve support of GNOME libraries in Rust, and explore solutions to create GObject APIs from Rust. This involved a review of GLib/GTK+ bindings and type mapping, the challenges of using GNOME technology like GStreamer and gdk-pixbuf in Rust, and improving Rust support in GNOME Builder.

In 2017, the GNOME Foundation provided over \$37,000 to hackfests and conferences for GNOME contributors.





GStreamer Spring 2017

A Coruña, Spain - May 20th to 21st, 2017

The second GStreamer hackfest of the year was held in A Coruña, Spain and hosted by Igalia. It was an informal gathering of people interested in working on GStreamer.

Fractional Scaling 2017

Toronto, Canada – June 13th to 16th, 2017

The Fractional Scaling hackfest was an opportunity to improve GNOME on HiDPI screens. While GNOME shell has supported HiDPI monitors, it would only allow scaling windows by integral factors (typically 2). While this was an improvement over no scaling at all, it proves somewhat limiting on systems that are just in between the dpi ranges that are good for scale factor 2, or unscaled. This hackfest worked to support different fractional scaling values in mutter and gnome shell, by upscaling the widgets and then downscaling to the requested value at composing time.

Conferences

GNOME.Asia

The GNOME.Asia conference for 2017 occurred in October this year and will be covered in the next Annual Report.

GUADEC

GUADEC is where many GNOME contributors meet annually to catch up on what has happened and plan for the future. This year, the conference took place in Manchester, England from July 28th through August 2nd and was hosted at the Manchester Metropolitan University. There were 204 attendees of which 19 self-identified as women and 3 as other, comprising 9.3% and 1.5% of attendees respectively.

The Keynote speaker this year was Karen Sandler, currently the Executive Director of the Software Freedom Conservancy and previously Executive Director of the GNOME Foundation. Her talk, “The Battle Over Our Technology”, discussed the role of ethics in technology, and how everyone involved with GNOME needs to consider ethics as technology becomes more and more entrenched in society.



The talks at GUADEC covered various topics including updates on Builder, Flatpak, and LibreOffice and introductions to the new Newcomer initiative, GNOME Recipes, and Rust in GNOME. In anticipation of the twentieth anniversary there were three talks that combined discussed the past, present, and future of the GNOME project. Jonathan Blandford’s talk, “The History of GNOME”, presented a journey through the 20 years of GNOME including some amusing anecdotes. Allan Day’s talk, “The GNOME Way”, took that history to explain how and why we as a project plan and execute certain things today. Neil McGovern’s talk, “GNOME to 2020 and Beyond”, discussed some challenges the GNOME project faces at the moment and the path the project may take in the future.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) gave a forum for the many GNOME teams to present to Foundation members all they have accomplished in the past year. The Board of Directors were introduced and answered any questions the membership wanted to ask.

The highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the GNOME Pants award. Given annually at GUADEC, this award is given to someone who has gone above and beyond during the past year. This year, the award went to Bastian Ilse for his tireless efforts towards the GNOME newcomers initiative, the very popular GNOME release videos, and his many contributions to the engagement team. We are very grateful to have Bastian as a member of the GNOME community.

Following the core days, there were three days of workshops and BoF sessions. The workshops helped newcomers make their first code contribution to GNOME, distribute an app with Flatpak, or contribute to GNOME documentation and localization. BoF sessions covered Flatpak and Flathub, productivity apps, GTK+, fonts, engagement, Rust, builder, tiling, and Meson.

Among the social events at GUADEC were the preregistration party, newcomer's lunch, city tour, annual football match, women's dinner, curry mile dinners, and outdoor games. The highlight of the social events was the GNOME 20th anniversary party. Held at the Manchester Museum of Science, there was trivia, dinner, dancing, and cake for all the attendees.

Other Conferences

GNOME had a presence at other conferences as well. GNOME volunteers staffed booths at Fosdem (Brussels, Belgium), ScaLE (Pasadena, California), and SeaGL (Seattle, Washington). Members of the GNOME community presented talks at ScaLE, FOSS North (Göteborg, Sweden), and keynoted at International Congress of Free Software (Zacatecas City, Mexico). In addition, community members represented GNOME at LibrePlanet (Cambridge, Massachusetts), Libre Graphics Meeting (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Linuxfest Northwest (Bellingham, Washington), OpenSUSE conference (Nuremberg, Germany), and Open Source Summit (Los Angeles, California).

The lightning talks and intern lightning talks rounded off the days with quick peaks into other projects. Lightning talks covered a variety of topics and included presentations on hardware testing, documentation, invitations to other conferences, and community engagement. The intern lightning talks were presented by our Google Summer of Code and Outreachy interns summarizing the project they had done for their internship. Projects presented included file integration improvements with the cloud, support for resizing disks, and plugin systems in Pitivi.



Finances at a Glance

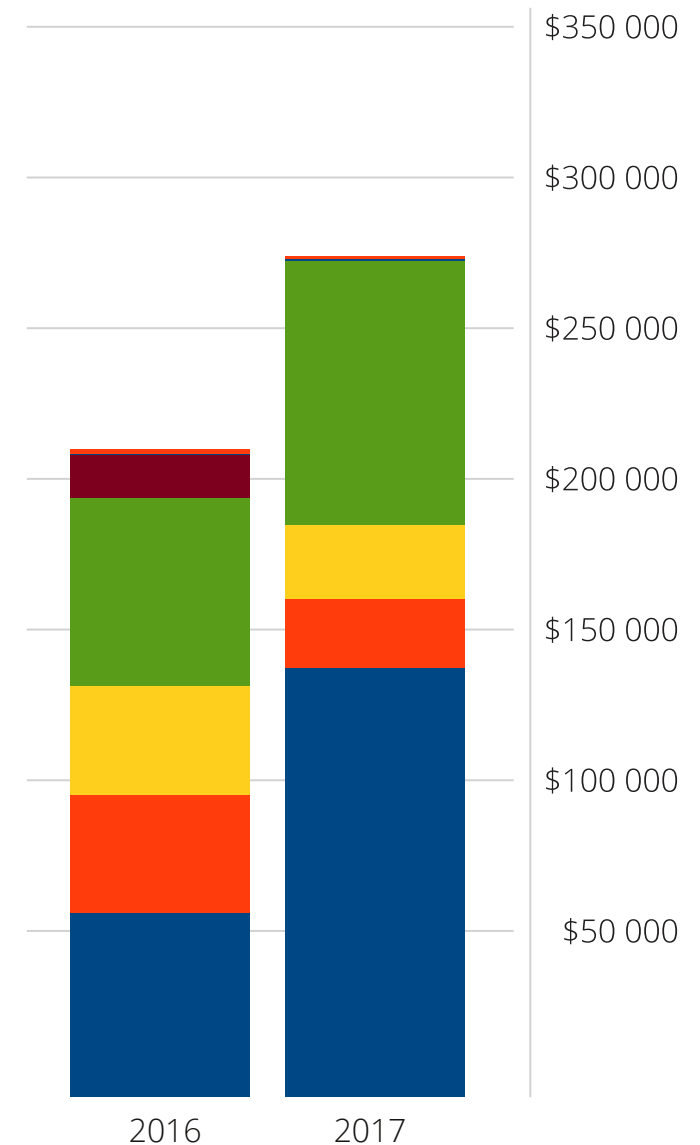
The GNOME Foundation fiscal year 2017 ran from October 1st, 2016 to September 30th, 2017.

Foreign currencies are converted to USD.

Income

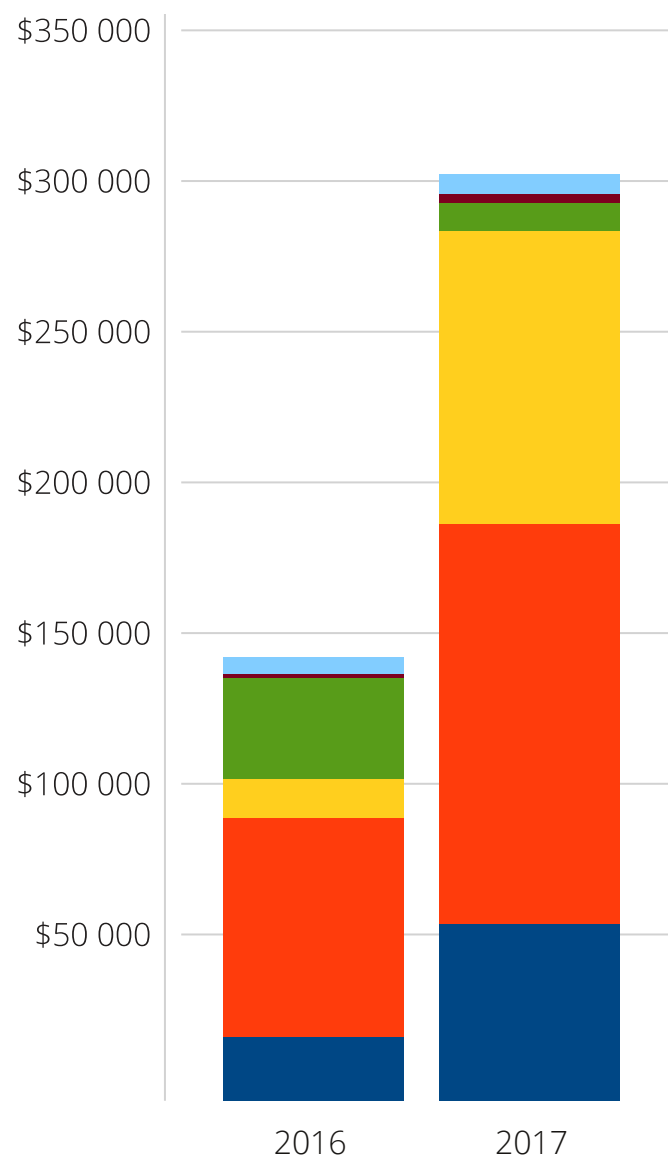
The Advisory Board fees for 2017 include \$20000 that were a late payment for 2016. If we reattribute those funds to 2016, there is still an increase of \$40000 in Advisory Board fees. This increase more than balances out the slight decrease in corporate sponsorships and donations. In addition, LAS GNOME did not occur in 2017 and funds were not raised for it. GUADEC fundraising was higher this year, which matches the increase in spending.

	2016	2017
■ Advisory Board	\$60,000	\$140,000
■ Sponsorship	\$38,671	\$22,667
■ Donations	\$35,570	\$24,020
■ GUADEC	\$61,359	\$86,599
■ LAS GNOME	\$13,988	N/A
■ Royalties	\$527	\$329
■ Other	\$1,359	\$961
Total	\$211,474	\$275,576



Expenditures

Expenses for 2017 increased significantly over 2016. Of note was the increase in staff of our Executive Director. The large administration expense includes clearing the books of older invoices that either had previously marked as unpaid or are no longer likely to come in. GUADEC expenditures often are settled within a year or two after the event but may take longer to resolve. The expenditures listed in the 2016 fiscal year for GUADEC includes payments for 2016 and 2017 GUADECs.



	2016	2017
Administration	\$20,734	\$57,680
Employees	\$71,290	\$129,691
GUADEC	\$12,535	\$95,442
Other events	\$32,993	\$9,126
Marketing	\$1,049	\$2,834
Women's Outreach	\$5,500	\$6,500
Total	\$144,101	\$301,273

20 Years Together

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the GNOME project when two Mexican students created a desktop based on Free Software principles. Since then GNOME has continued to thrive and evolve, meeting each challenge with a persistence that is unique to this project because of its longevity and dedication to a grand vision. Building a desktop that just works, distraction free computing, with a clear and consistent set of design patterns.

GNOME's success is due to the people who participate in it. The familiar mantra that is frequently

espoused by our members - "GNOME is people". During our twenty years, we've had members who left on their own personal journeys, and new ones who start a new journey with the project. Most look back to their period in GNOME as a time of personal growth, fellowship, and fond memories. We hope that members who are involved today find themselves on a similar journey.

To those who have GNOME in their rear view mirror, we share our deepest respect and gratitude for all you have done on our behalf. If you were a



developer, your work lives on in our codebase as a living testament. For those of you who wrote articles, designed apps, spoke up for equality, were uncompromising in making GNOME a welcoming place, we are forever grateful. Thank you.

For all the newcomers who are joining us, we hope that GNOME will be your home for a long time to come. That your experiences, passion, and personal journeys are enriched by your involvement in GNOME. In turn, we know that you will make GNOME better, as a project and as a community.



Having passed this milestone, we can now look forward to the exciting future on what the next five, ten, and yes - twenty years will bring us. Today, we have exciting initiatives in Flatpak and Flathub, modernizing our development model, and building an outreach programs that diversifies our talents, people, and strengths.

In the past 20 years, we have matured our platform, and it's time to position ourselves aggressively as the platform of choice for applications, user experience, and community. In the next 20 years we will build

momentum for a future that respects privacy, security, and ethical computing. We can't do that without you. So we circle back to our mantra – “GNOME is people”. Let's go forth and challenge the status quo.



Outreach

GNOME participates in two outreach programs: Google Summer of Code (GSoC) and the Outreachy Program run by our own Karen Sandler and Marina Taylor with Sage Sharp. For GSoC, we had a total of 19 students that worked on GNOME core applications and games, GNOME Builder, and key pieces of the GNOME stack. We would like to recognize these students for their successful completion of GSoC:

Student	Mentored by	Description
Pranav Ganorkar	David King, Jonathan Kang	Search and User Interface Improvements in GNOME Logs
Ludovico de Nittis	Tobias Mueller	Keysign: Alternative Key transports
Ernestas Kulik	Carlos Soriano Sánchez	Nautilus I/O Operation Management Rework
Kai Lüke	Ondrej Holy	GNOME Disks: Resize and Repair Filesystems
Rohit Kaushik	Georges Stavrakas	Integrating Todoist in GNOME To Do
Lucie Charvat	Christian Hergert	Documentation Cards for GNOME Builder
Suhas Nayak	Mathieu Duponchelle	Pitivi: Color correction interface using three chromatic wheels
Stefan-Adrian Popa	Thibault Saunier	Pitivi: UI for Ken-Burns effect
Yasitha Rajapaksha	Adrien Plazas	Gnome-Games: Make the Nintendo DS a First Class Citizen
Abhinav Singh	Adrien Plazas	Games: Gamepads and Keyboard Configuration
Luke Jones	Philip Chimento	GJS: Investigate use of Rust to improve memory safety
Alexandru Pandelea	Carlos Soriano, Carlos Garnacho	Nautilus: Improve Search
Ekta Nandwani	Matthias Clasen	Recipes - Sharing Shopping list to TODOist
Yash Singh	Georges Stavrakas	Calendar - Add support for recurrent events
Anoop Chandu Kunisetty	Christian Hergert	Builder - Code Search
Armin Krezović	Carlos Garnacho, Jonas Ådahl	Mutter Wayland without X11
Fabian Orcon	Alexandru Bălut	Implement a Plugin System in Pitivi and a set of plugins
Julius Härtl	Carlos Soriano, Roeland Douma	Improving the cloud experience with Nextcloud and GNOME
Rareş Visalom	Florian Mullner	Gnome-Shell UX Tweaks



For Outreachy, the GNOME foundation funded one student for the May to August 2017 round.

Student	Mentored by	Description
Paxana Amanda Xander	Matthias Clasen	A Proper Unit System for GNOME Recipes.

We would like to thank the students for their work on GNOME's stack. Their work improves the functionality and viability of GNOME. We wish them luck in their future endeavors and hope that they will return and be part of GNOME going forward.



Accessibility

The accessibility of GNOME is one aspect many contributors are very proud of. It also helps, together with our work on usability and localization, to make the software we create truly usable by anyone. In the past year, two new versions have been released, as always, with the help of the community many bugs has been reported and fixed.

The Universal Access section in the Settings application has added a new Cursor Size selection dialog where the cursor size can be combined with zoom to make it easier to see the cursor.

Orca support for web browsers received a lot of attention and ARIA support was improved:

- Ensure we always announce ARIA landmark type before setting the caret
- Improve presentation of ARIA regions
- Add custom support for ARIA switch role
- Present messages resulting from use of aria-invalid

Additionally, Orca introduced support for Digital Publishing ARIA. This specification expands ARIA to produce structural semantic extensions to accommodate the digital publishing industry. This is particularly important for structural divisions of long-form documents and embedding semantic metadata for Web-application widgets. It enables semantic navigation, styling and interactive features.

Orca support for LibreOffice has been improved by fixing many bugs and introducing some work-arounds that benefit the experience of our users.

Several D-Bus AT-SPI bugs has been fixed and some performance improvements has been included. And finally, minor ATK bugs has been resolved and it has been migrated to the meson build system.



Friends of GNOME

...are the individuals who make a lot of our activities possible. By giving to the GNOME Foundation on a regular or a one-time basis, these generous donors have ensured we can continue our mission to provide a free and easy-to-use desktop.

Adopt a Hacker

A Walton
Abhishek Prakash
Adam Dingle
Alan Morgan
Albert Gasset Romo
Alberto Caso
Alberto Caso
Alexander Meshcheryakov
Aliaksei Budnikau
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Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is made up of organizations and companies that support GNOME. Advisory Board membership helps support the overall infrastructure for GNOME and its members communicate with the Board of Directors, helping them to guide the direction of GNOME and the Foundation.

The Advisory Board has no decision-making authority but provides a vehicle for its members to communicate with the Board of Directors and help the Directors guide the overall direction of GNOME and the GNOME Foundation. The Advisory Board consists of representatives from the GNOME Foundation member corporations and projects shown below.



